(v) Financial incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas as also for utilisation of solid waste such as fly ash and phospho-gypsum.

(vi) Compensation for the damage as a disincentive for those handling hazardous substances is provided under the public Liability Insurance Act.

(vii) Environmental epidemiological studies have been initiated in some of the identified critically polluted areas.

(viii) Gross and mass emission standards for all types of vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(ix) Draft notification in respect of mass emission standards for petrol and diesel driven vehicles for the year 1995 has been issued under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(x) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel for petrol and diesel in major metropolitan cities.

(xi) Public awareness campaigns have been launched.

Violation of Forest conservation Act

1351. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of ENVIROMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any violation of Forest Conservation Act in the country in order to fulfil populist schemes for urban and rural poor;

(b) if so, the details of the same; and

(c) whether any corrective steps are taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) Prior Approval of the Central Government is required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 before diverting forest land for any non-forestry uses. Number of instances have come to the notice of the Central Government, where diversion of forest land for non-forestry uses have been permitted without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government under the Act. In such cases the concerned State/UT Governments are asked to fix responsibility for violation of the Act. Final decision for diversion of forest land in such cases is taken after considering all the relevant information including circumstances leading to violation of the Act, action taken against the officials found guilty for violation of Forest (Conservation) Act.

Action Plan for the Damodar River System

1352. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed draft action plan for the Damodar river system water quality management has since been prepared and reviewed by the advisory committee set up for the purpose; and

(b) if so, details of the said action plan ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The scheme of pollution abatement of river Damodar is under formulation by the concerned State Governments. Details in this regard are being worked out.

Increasing Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

1353. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing menace of pollution in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details of the trends in pollution hazards in each metropolitan city over last five years; and

(c) what measures have been taken/proposed to be taken to contain pollution through fresh administrative/legislative action ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board has estimated that the major causes of pollution